GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Forests Department – Disciplinary Proceedings initiated against Sri N. Prasada Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Yerragondapalem Range of Markapur (WL) Division under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC&A) Rules, 1991 continued under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Punishment of "withholding of ten percent (10%) of pension for a period of five (5) years" – Orders – Issued.

ENVIORNMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.7 **Dated.24.01.2024.**

Read the following: -

1. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.14642/2017/A&DC-2 (i), dated 20.01.2022.
2. Govt. Memo. No.174/Sec.IV/A1/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 25.08.2022.
3. Sri N. Prasada Rao, FRO, Venkatagiri Range of Nellore Division, earlier worked in Yerragondapalem Range of Markapur (WL) Division, Explanation dated 24.11.2022 received through the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., letter Ref.no.14642/2017/A7DC-2, dated 27.12.2023.

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In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has informed that the following Articles of Charges were issued to Sri N. Prasada Rao, FRO, Venkatagiri Range of Nellore Division, earlier worked in Yerragondapalem Range of Markapur (WL) Division by the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur in Rc.No.14642/2017/Vig.1, dated 01.02.2019, under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC&A) Rules 1991:-

Article-I: "Sri N. Prasada Rao, Forest Range Officer (during his charge period in Y. Palem Range) has allowed illicit transportation of iron ore in Markapur RF, Compartment No.199 and destruction of forest and formation of 6.652 Km + 200 Mtrs Road in Comp.No.197, 202, 209 & 210 in V.R. Palli Beat of Pullalacheruvu section of Y. Palem Range, Markapur and ENB-XII RFs and committed irregularities".

Article-II: "Negligence of legitimate duties by not accompanying the Flying Squad Party for inspection of V.R. Palli Beat, Pullalacheruvu Section of Y. Palem Range on 09.05.2017".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of Articles of Charges on 28.02.2019 and submitted his written defense statement on 15.12.2020, after appointment of Common Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer. The PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has appointed the Conservator of Forests & Filed Director, Project Tiger Srisailam as Common Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Markapur (WL) Division as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.14642/2017/Vig.1 (i&ii), dated 10.12.2019, for conducting the regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & the Conservator of Forests & FDPT Srisailam has completed the inquiry and submitted his findings along-with connected case records in Rc.No.1989/2017/PT.1, dated 18.05.2021 wherein, the Inquiry Officer has concluded that based on the analysis, available records, enquiry and statement given by the staff both charges are held proved.

P.T.O.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.14642/2017/A&DC-1, dated 31.07.2021, for submission of further defense statement. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of the Final Notice on 13.12.2021 and submitted his further defense statement, dated 25.12.2021, wherein he did not submit any new/fresh/valid reasons.

5. The Charged Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.06.2019. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. After careful examination of the matter, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a punishment of "withholding of ten percent (10%) of pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri N. Prasada Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Yerragondapalem Range of Markapur (WL) Division under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in the Memo 2nd read above, show-cause notice has been issued to the charged officer for submitting his explanation. The Charged officer has acknowledged the receipt of show-cause notice on 15.11.2022 and submitted his explanation dated 24.11.2022 in the reference 3rd above. In his explanation dated 24.11.2022, Sri N. Prasada Rao, FRO (Retd.), earlier FRO, Y. Palem Range of Markapur (WL) Division has requested the Government to drop the further action on the above charges. But, he has not submitted any new/valid points to consider.

7. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government hereby order to impose a punishment of "withholding of ten percent (10%) of pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri N. Prasada Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Yerragondapalem Range of Markapur (WL) Division under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri N. Prasada Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Yerragondapalem Range of Markapur (WL) Division (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri. (w.e) (Connected record File.No.1989/2017/PT-1, pages-1 to 208).

Copy to:-
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1631760).

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER